include higher investment in agriculture and rural infrastructure, in R&D, on enhancing productivity, in strengthening post harvest infrastructure, appropriate diversification and also strengthening markets so that small holder farmers improve their earnings.

(c) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Companies deceiving people by giving less quantity of goods at same price

1545. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:
SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is aware of the way the companies are deceiving people by giving less quantity of goods with the same price, for example, 100 gms of toothpaste used to cost Rs. 40 and now they are giving 80 gms of paste for same amount of money;

(b) if so, whether any action has been initiated by his Ministry, through the consumer redressal mechanism, to protect the consumer from such cheating by companies; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) The Ministry's attention was earlier drawn to newspaper reports in this regard. The retail sale price declared on a pre packed commodity is decided by the manufacturer. In respect of 'net quantity' declared on a package, commodities, not listed in the Third schedule to the Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 1977, can be packed in any quantity. However commodities listed in the Third schedule to the Rules have to be packed only in recommended standard quantities provided in the said Schedule. However Rules give an option to the manufacturers to pack a commodity listed in the Third schedule in any quantity other than the standard quantity also. When they exercise the option, a declaration "not a standard pack size under the Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 1977", or "non standard size under the Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 1977", have to be made on the package. Tooth paste is not listed in the Third schedule to the Rules and therefore can be packed in any quantity.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Procurement of poor quality of wheat by FCI

1546. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:
SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state: